

Official Cars for Officials' Wives?

Associated Press

Whenver Martha Mitchell wants to leave her luxury apartment by the Potomac she telephones for a sleek, chauffeured black sedan leased by the federal government.

Keeping a 1972 Mercury at the disposal of the attorney general's wife 24 hours a day costs the taxpayers \$850 a year, plus the driver's salary of about \$8,300.

"Those cars are supposed

to be for official use only, not for Cabinet wives," said a General Services Administration official when told Mrs. Mitchell has been assigned her own car and driver since President Nixon took office.

The GSA assigns government-owned cars for use by bureaucrats with the exception of top executives and is responsible for seeing that they are properly used.

Asked about the car Wednesday while visiting in Little Rock, Mrs. Mitchell exclaimed, "All Cabinet wives have cars."

"Mrs. Kennedy, the wife of the late Atty. Gen. Robert F. Kennedy, had the hugest car," she said gesturing with her arms.

"Mine is small in comparison," she said drawing her hands closer together.

"There are two things we

get, wives of attorney generals, a secretary and a car," she said. "This just kills me." "I had two chauffeurs," she said, "but I cut it down to one. I didn't need two drivers."

Mrs. Mitchell's car comes from a pool reserved for top Justice Department officers, but the GSA official said he finds it "highly unusual" that she has her own.

He said government regulations would have to be stretched for officials to send their drivers to pick up their wives even on a temporary basis.

Martha Goes Home Again

PINE BLUFF, Ark. (AP)

—Martha Mitchell renewed acquaintances and struck up some new ones in a 45-minute tour of her old home town Tuesday.

Along the way she toured two banks and later told newsmen that at one time, she had dated the top executives at each of them.

She wore a blue dress and a full length knit coat. The wife of U.S. Atty. Gen. John N. Mitchell received a cor-sage from three youths at one point in the tour.

An electric sign at the 11-

story Simmons First National Bank Building flashed, "Welcome Martha," and then flashed the outline of a telephone.

She also toured the five-story National Bank of Commerce Building. The tour was guided by the bank president, William H. Kennedy, and at the Simmons Building she was shown around by the president, Louis Ramsey, and the board chairman, Wayne Stone.

Mrs. Mitchell also visited Schloss Jewelers and Cohen's Fashion Shop renewing acquaintances with the families operating those businesses.